

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated October 27, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of December 1, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. The Examiner's withdrawal of the finality of the previous Office action is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 16-18 are currently pending.

Claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 to Owa et al. (*hereinafter*, "Owa") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0052995 to Idehara (*hereinafter*, "Idehara") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,151,611 to Seseek (*hereinafter*, "Seseek"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

The subject application is directed to a system and method for optimized routing of printing. A print job is commenced to a print port associated with a client machine and print job data is queued. A prompt is issued to an associated user for print optimization authority and the print job data is communication to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom. Status data is received from each of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith. A print optimization instruction is received from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing as well as delay criteria data corresponding to an acceptable delay period associated with commencement of the print job. The user preauthorizes redirection of the print job to an alternative device in the event specified conditions are met. Elapsed time is determined relative to commencement of the print job. The status data is tested data against selected test criteria, elapsed time, and received delay criteria data to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing. The print job data is selectively redirected, in accordance with the preauthorization, from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with a print optimization

instruction and an output of the testing, wherein the output of the testing is indicative that the primary designated associated printer device exceeds the user-specified delay criteria.

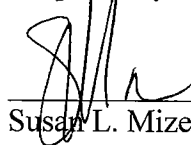
As discussed during the Interview, the newly added Sesek is directed to setting of printer properties, wherein these new printer settings revert to default printer settings after an elapsed time. Conversely, the subject application teaches a system wherein a user preauthorizes alternative routing for a particular job in the event that certain conditions are met. Amendment has been made to each of independent claims 1 and 10 to include limitations directed to preauthorizing an alternative device, and routing the job to an alternative device when a certain elapsed time is measured. For the reasons discussed during the Interview, and noted herein, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over Sesek, and over the art previously of record for the reasons noted earlier.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00020.

Date: 12/18/08

Respectfully submitted,



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